A total of Rs. 36501.01 crore has been allocated till date for payment of fertilizer subsidy against the estimated total requirement of Rs. 45659.40 crore in the current year.

The subsidy is released to the manufacturers/importers on sale of fertilizers and thus benefit to the farmers in each State of the country from the present fertilizer subsidy accrues in proportion of their consumption of fertilizers within the State.

Fall in prices of drugs due to introduction of fixed margins on generic drugs

1199. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of more than half of all drugs have come down by 50 per cent with effect from 2nd October, 2007 with the introduction of fixed margins on generic drugs for wholesalers and retailers and his Ministry and the industry have also agreed that the upper limit price for drugs would be kept outside price control at Rs. 3 a tablet and drugs priced more than Rs.3 per tablet would come under price control; and

(b) whether Government has also set up a 14 member committee consisting of his Ministry and representatives of industry to look into the different aspects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Fixed margins on generic drugs for wholesalers and retailers have not been introduced/notified so far by the Government. Under para 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO 1995), 16% margin to retailer is allowed in respect of Scheduled formulations. Fixation/revision of prices of Scheduled bulk drugs and formulations based thereon is an ongoing exercise undertaken by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under provisions of DPCO, 1995. There is no agreement between the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and the drug industry that the upper limit price for drugs would be kept outside price control at Rs.3 a tablet and drugs priced more than Rs. 3 per tablet would come under price control.

(b) Yes, Madam. A Joint Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Secretary (C&PC) consisting of officials of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and representatives of drug industry was constituted in August, 2006 to look into certain issues and this Committee has since submitted its report to the Government on 30-11-2006.

Investment in PCPIRs

1200. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to invest Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 10,000 crores in the Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIR) and if so, the details in this regard; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that some States have set their propoals, for investment in this regard, and if so, the names of these States, the amount proposed to be invested by them and the decision taken on the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The Cabinet has recently approved